SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—" In view of the fact that the Communist Party of India have decided to go back to their palicy of 1947, namely, of supporting the Nehru Government, of course with some minor demagogy reservations, will the Government release the Communist prisoners or if that cannot be done, will they at least give an assurance that they (the prisoners) will not meet the fate of ' Beria '? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" Regarding the first part of the question, Government are not yet aware of such a change in the attitute of the Communist Party of India. Regarding the second part of the question, let me inform the hon. Member that we are in India and not in Russia." (Cheers.)

SRI K. R. NALLASIVAM :—" கம்யூனிஸ்ட்கள் தீவிரமாக பார்லிமெண்டரி நடவடிக்கைகளில் கலந்துகொள்வதால் அவர்களை விடுதலை செய்வதற்கு சர்க்கார் ஆழ்ந்து யோசித்து வருகிறதா ? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" A separate question may be put."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have only twenty minutes left. I want to proceed with the remaining questions rapidly."

Elections to District Boards.

* 253 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state when the elections to the District Boards in this State will be held?

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" The matter is under the consideration of the Government."

* 254 *Q.*—

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member Sri K. Aranganathan has written to me that he is not putting this question."

Selection of Harijans as Public Works Department contractors.

* 255 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many Harijan members applied to the Government to register them as Public Works Department contractors ; and

(*b*) how many of them were selected as contractors?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) Six Harijan members applied recently for being registered as P.W.D. contractors.

" (*b*) Five were registered as contractors. One Harijan applicant did not pay the registration fees and hence he was not registered."

26th December 1953]

SRI D. DASARATHAN :—" குறித்த அளவில் சொத்து உடையவர் கள்தான் கான்ட்ராக்டர்களாக பதிவு செய்துகொள்வதற்கு மனுச் செய்து கொள்ளவேண்டும் என்று சர்க்கார் சொல்லி இருக்கிறார்கள். ஹரிஜனங் களுக்கு அந்த அளவில் சொத்து இல்லாததால் இந்த விஷயத்தில் அவர் களுக்கு ஏதாவது சர்க்கார் சலுகை காட்டுமா ? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" A separate question may be put."

Nominations to the South Arcot Market Committee.

* 256 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the nominations for the South Arcot Market Committee were made, for the vacancies that arose in December 1952;

(*b*) what was the number of vacancies at the time and how many were nominated;

(*c*) whether the cotton and gingelly crops notified in South Arcot have been brought under the operation of the rules for buying and selling; if so, from what date; and if not, why; and

(*d*) on what principles the Government choose persons for nominating to the Market Committees formed under the Madras Commercial Crops Markets Act, 1933?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The nominations to the South Arcot Market Committee were made in June 1953.

" (*b*) Formerly there was only one nominated seat in the South Arcot Market Committee. In October 1952, the Government notified cotton and gingelly besides groundnut under the Madras Commercial Crops Markets Act in the South Arcot district. Till then the South Arcot Market Committee was dealing only in groundnut. In view of the newly notified crops referred to above, the Government considered that the nominated seats in the South Arcot Market Committee should be increased from 1 to 4, raising the total strength of the Committee to 12, which is the maximum prescribed under the Act. Four persons were nominated to the four nominated seats referred to above.

" (*c*) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The provisions of the Madras Commercial Crops Markets Act and Rules are being enforced in respect of these crops with effect on and from 1st October 1953.

" (*d*) The principle generally adopted is to give a fair representation to all interests concerned. In the case of the South Arcot Market Committee two growers and two traders were nominated."

SRI A. GOVIDASWAMY NAYAGAR :—" இந்த மார்க்கெட் கமிட்டிக்கு யார் யார் விண்ணப்பம் போட்டார்கள் ? அவர்களை தேர்ந் தெடுத்தபோது அவர்களுடைய தகுதிகளைப் பார்த்தார்களா என்று சர்க் கார் சொல்ல முடியுமா ? "